

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

Inside:



**Why they
covered
up for Fr
Brendan
Smyth**

—pages 6 & 7

Ahern is no different

**FIANNA FAIL:
THE PARTY OF
CORRUPTION**

***Labour out
of Coalition!***

Gay activist assaulted

CO-CHAIRPERSON of the Gay & Lesbian equality network, Suzy Byrne, was attacked by three people on Saturday the 22nd of October, having been recognised from her appearance on the *Late Late Show* the previous week.

She was knocked to the ground and kicked in the ribs and hips.

The attackers shouted obscenities at her sexuality and then proceeded to assault her.

This shows that even though homosexuality has been decriminalised attacks still continue. It takes more than legislation to challenge people's attitudes.

FIGHTING THE WATER CHARGES

DUN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN

SIXTY people from Ballinteer and Dun Laoghaire picketed Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Council in mid-November.

The Ballinteer Campaign Against Water Charges organised the protest to coincide with the opening debate on next year's estimates.

Protesters occupied the foyer of the Town Hall, disregarding pleas from officials to remain outside. None of the councillors saw fit to address the crowd, despite calls to justify their stance on water charges.

The chanting continued for three-quarters of an hour and people pledged to continue their campaign of non-payment.

The police arrived in force towards the end of the demonstration.

When one member of *Socialist Worker* was rounded upon, other protesters rallied around.

They were adamant that no individual would be singled out and were very vocal in the opposition to the police.

These attempts to intimidate protesters have only strengthened the resolve to fight.

Only 30 per cent of householders in Fingal and South Dublin and a minority in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown had paid the water charges.

Working class people all around Dublin see the charges as another attack on them and are organising to resist them.

ASHBOURNE

A NUMBER of people in the Ashbourne area of Co Dublin have had their water cut off after they refused to pay their water charges.

The Council is employing a sub-contractor from Dundalk called McKevitt to do the cut-offs.

Refusing

Trade union members in many of the council are now refusing to do the dirty on local residents.

The Dublin Trades Council has come out firmly against the cut-offs.

Residents in Ashbourne already suffer from a low quality of water which contains a lot of lime.

On some occasions the water is barely drinkable and residents are travelling into Dublin to get or buy water.

One anti-water charge activist told *Socialist Worker*:

"We need to get some resistance to these cut-offs organised."

"Whenever these sub-contractors come out, neighbours should be alerted so that we send them off the estate".

'Civilised hypocrisy'

The right wing Public Policy Institute held a conference in Dublin recently attacking Niamh Breatnach's plans for sex education in schools.

Dr Gerard Casey of the Christian Solidarity Party said the programme amounted to "social re-engineering" of children.

Dr Dennis O'Keeffe of the trunacy unit University of North London said there was too much openness about sex. He said there was a "civilised side to hypoc-

ris" and that the "old French or Spanish tradition of the rich going to church while having affairs" was not so bad!

Presumably Dr O'Keeffe would prefer less openness about the activities of paedophile priests in his drive to protect the "innocence of childhood".

Callous PO bosses

After the Newry postal worker, Frank Kerr, was killed in a recent armed robbery his fellow workers turned up in huge numbers to his funeral. But now the miserable management at the Post Office have insulted his memory.

They have announced that all workers who attended the funeral are to be docked a days pay. These Tory hypocrites care nothing about the lives of workers - but only want more profits.

Wimpey sit-in saves jobs

Workers at the Waterford Wimpey restaurant are fighting for their jobs. The restaurant was taken over by a new owner recently. He told one of the staff that their wages of £3.50 and hour was too much. He wanted to take on people who "would work for £1.80 and hour".

The seven ATGWU members immediately occupied the restaurant. One of the workers told *Socialist Worker* "We knew that the boss liked to get a good night's sleep. So we waited

until 4am and rang to tell him that his restaurant was under workers occupation. "He went wild when he saw all the banners hanging out the window and called the police. But we stayed where we were".

The occupation saved the jobs. But a week afterwards, the ATGWU shop was victimised. Picket were placed on the restaurant until the owner said he was giving up the business.

A previous owner has now come back and workers are waiting to negotiate the future of their jobs.

Travellers facing fresh attacks

TRAVELLERS across Ireland have faced a new round of attacks.

Although these attacks are getting more vicious the media are reporting on them as if the travellers had brought the attacks on themselves.

They come hand-in-hand with claims that travellers are dirty, dangerous and untrustworthy.

In Blarney a couple of months ago a gang of 'hit men' from Dublin smashed up a caravan by lifting it with a crane and letting it drop.

A young mother had to leap from the caravan with a baby in her arms.

In New Ross last month a couple in their 50s were savagely beaten by hooded men, wielding pick-axe handles.

In Bray a woman was chased around a housing estate by young men in a stolen car.

This kind of violence is an inevitable consequence of a deeper, institutionalised bigotry.

Travellers are segregated from settled people in almost every area of life.

They are given separate housing, separate education and are even made to sign on at separate times.

There is absolutely no good reason for this and yet, almost a century of independent government has done nothing to change it.

Why? Because travellers are a group without any political power, their lifestyle is different to 'normal' society and they are a handy scapegoat on which to divert working class anger.

Unofficial camp sites are



often, though far from always, dirty. But that is simply because there are no facilities available.

Anyone who has seen properly serviced halting sites knows that the myth

that travellers are inherently dirty is just that.

Conditions

Settled people put in similarly bad conditions

would fare just the same.

(Look at Thurles after a Feile).

And as far as being dangerous or criminal goes travellers are no more so than anyone else.

INSIDE THE SYSTEM

TEAM's top priority

The TEAM management know how to add insult to injury. One of the first jobs they gave their workers after the recent lock out was to refurbish the government jet.

It seems that the carpets got a little worn down with all the travelling around the world. Upholsterers in TEAM were surprised to find that the seats were all made of leather.

As one TEAM worker

RUC pay-off

FORMER UDR man, turned unionist MP Ken Magennis has always been uncritical of the Royal Ulster Constabulary despite everything from Castle-reagh beatings to collusion and shoot-to-kill.

This enthusiasm can be better understood after a glance at the list of members interests for the House of Commons. Magennis receives a yearly wage of £4000 acting as an advisor to the RUC.

Friendly advice

The butcher's of East Timor have found some friends in the Unionist Party.

Unionist MP, James Kilfedder recently took a trip to East Timor. His full expenses were paid for him by the military generals who run Indonesia. Kilfedder had to declare this interest in the Members Book in the House of Commons.

Maybe Kilfedder was so used to support repression in the North - that the generals reckoned he could give some advice.

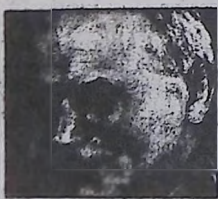
THE POPE'S FRIENDS

THE POPE'S new book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, has become an international best seller.

In the book the head of the Catholic Church tries to portray himself as a kind, holy man who is against racism and women's oppression.

Yet in the book's official launch in Italy last week the formal presentation was made by Irene Pivetti, speaker of the lower house of the Italian parliament.

Pivetti had defended the Italian fascist dictator of the 1920s and 30s, Benito Mussolini.



THE POPE, a best selling author

She claims, "The best things for women and the family were done by Mussolini."

To take just one example of these "best things", under Mussolini women could legally be sacked for getting pregnant or married.

Pivetti has also been denounced for anti-Semitism by the Institute of Jewish Affairs in London. She responded by denouncing "Jewish freemasonry".

Perhaps the pope should reread the Bible: "By the company they keep shall ye judge them".

Handicap

UNDER former dictator Kim Il Sung North Korean newspapers accredited the disabled foot with many fantastic achievements such as the development of the helicopter. It seems his greatness has been passed on to his son who was recently reported as having shot 5 holes in one during a single round of golf. Now there's a man with an excessive handicap.

Press baron

Tony O'Reilly wants to strike another blow for press freedom by buying a 25 per cent stake in the Irish Press group.

O'Reilly already owns the Independent and this move would leave him with a stake in four Sunday papers.

He also owns nearly forty per cent of Argus newspapers in South Africa.

O'Reilly uses his papers to attack trade unions and print racist filth by people like Richard Lynn. But we are glad to hear he will not be interfering in the editorial policy of the Press - the Fianna Fail rag can safely support workers and attack rich people like O'Reilly as it has always done!!

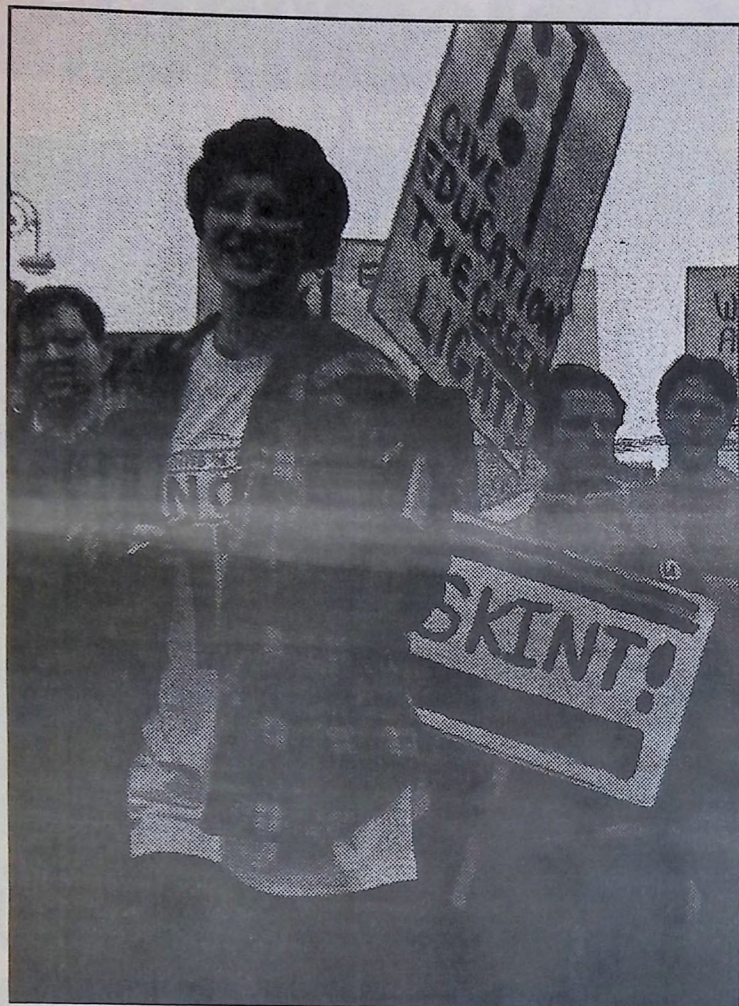
CAP THAT!

THE market wins out yet again! Under the recent CAP reform for EU farmers, some 35,000 hectares of land was made fallow as part of the EU plan to reduce food mountains.

But less than 1 per cent of that is now being put to other uses. And while millions starve across the world, the EU have the neck to declare the set-aside policy "a success".

WE THINK

No Coalition with Fianna Fail



Part of the huge demonstration against student poverty on November 17th in Dublin. Photo: Gary O'Brien

THE Fr Brendan Smyth affair exposed the web of corruption which links Fianna Fail and the Bishops.

After the affair opinion polls showed that the core FF vote had dropped

to 28%.

Real opportunities are now available to break the

grip of the most powerful right wing party which has dominated the Southern state since the 1930s.

But this can only happen if the Labour Party

stays out of Coalition. A Labour Party that went into opposition could expose the whole FF cabinet—rather than just Reynolds—for the liars that they were.

It could stand aside from the coming attacks on public sector workers in the ESB and Telecom which FF are already planning.

Tragedy

It could tell Ahern to join up with Bruton if he wants to form a government. That would clear the way for ending civil war politics and open the way for class politics.

The tragedy is that the Labour leaders will probably do none of these things. The TEAM dispute shows that they have no stomach for workers struggle.

It prefers to be at the cabinet table negotiating deals with Fianna Fail or Fine Gael—while enjoying the Merces and perks of office.

None of its new promises about clean government will bring any change.

In 1992 Spring make the exact same promises and then stood with Reynolds during the tax amnesty and passports scandal.

Labour is committed to running capitalism in Ireland.

And as long as it does that it will never escape the muck and corruption that goes with it.

Does peace in Ireland depend on FF?

ONE OF the saddest developments during the recent crisis was the pronouncements of the Sinn Féin leaders that 'stability in the South' was necessary to keep the peace process on the road.

Sinn Féin leaders like Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness came out openly for Reynolds staying in office.

The republicans grew out of a fight against sectarianism and the British Army. Because of that struggle they were hounded in the South as Fianna Fail set up Special Courts and ordered the Special Branch to harass them.

For most of that time Sinn Féin leaders argued that they were not just fighting the Northern State but they also wanted to overthrow the corrupt regime of the South.

But now the connections between

Sinn Féin and FF have become very close.

The price of the nationalist alliance is that republicans try to keep right wing gangsters like FF in office.

The real truth is that Reynolds or Ahern have not the slightest interest in removing the sources of the violence in Northern Ireland.

Disbanded

They do not want to see the RUC disbanded. They want to do nothing to reverse discrimination by creating thousands of jobs.

All they are concerned about is getting a platform for middle class Catholics to promote their identity within the Northern state. And that will never lay the basis for peace with justice.

WHERE IS THE ALTERNATIVE?

EVEN before the Smyth affair the FF-Labour Coalition were in deep trouble.

The huge vote for the Democratic Left candidate in Cork, Kathleen Lynch, shows that workers are looking for an al-

ternative on the left.

Tiny votes were recorded for the hard right Christian Principles Party.

Rich

Lynch won because she hammered home the simple message that the Coalition were a government

of the rich.

They could reward people like Larry Goodman with tax amnesties while they told Irish Steel workers to take a pay cut.

Despite this clear message, the leaders of Democratic Left want to join Fine Gael and the

Progressive Democrats in Coalition.

They want to repeat the experience of the Labour Party because they too see change coming from parliament rather than from workers struggles.

But Fine Gael are no less corrupt than Fianna

Fail.

When Democratic Left were rightly attacking FF Minister Brian Cowan for having shares in the mining company Arcon, they should also have noticed that the Fine Gael TD, Kieran Crotty also had shares in the company. He never mentioned

that fact while he sat on the Kilkenny Council which presided over the planing application.

Right Wing

Nor are Fine Gael more liberal on social issues.

It was Fine Gael as well

as FF who inserted the SPUC clause in the Irish constitution.

Both Fianna Fail and Fine Gael share right wing politics which attack the conditions of workers.

No left wing party should have anything to do with them.

Socialist Worker Appeal

The Socialist Worker appeal has reached over £7,200.

Thanks to all our readers who have given generously.

The recent political crisis shows just why we need a fortnightly socialist paper in Ireland.

While the rest of the press presented Bertie Ahern as a "man of the people",

Only *Socialist Worker* exposed his true record as a "man of the bosses".

Socialist ideas are now growing in Ireland.

Last month, the SWM held a Marxism '94 conference.

Over 250 people turned up to hear a series of debates. Afterwards 15 people joined the SWM.

In the run up to the huge student march, *Socialist Worker* produced thousands of posters.

**Socialist Worker
Appeal reaches
£7,200**

After the march, eight students joined the SWM.

Protest

Now the organisation is helping to build a major protest against the racist professor in Coleraine, Richard Lynn who has labelled the long term unemployed as "mentally retarded".

Meetings are also being held around the country on the crisis of the church and state.

All of this costs money. *Socialist Worker* needs better equipment to produce a good quality regular paper, leaflets and posters.

We appeal to our readers to give generously to help us reach our £10,000 target.



PHOTO: GARY O'BRIEN

MIDDLE EAST:

PLO cops massacre Palestinians

YASSER Arafat's police have fired the first shots of what may be the Palestinian civil war.

It provides a grim a warning for those who think that the Irish peace process has solved the problems of the North.

13 Islamic fundamentalists were murdered and hundreds more were injured as they were leaving a mosque in Gaza.

After the massacre thousands besieged the headquarters of Arafat's security forces—the same hated building that was once the nerve centre of the Israeli occupation of the Gaza strip.

The killing exposed the grim truth behind the treaty signed by Israel and Arafat's Palestinian Liberation Organisation a year ago.

Arafat claimed that the treaty was a stepping stone to an independent Palestinian state.

But just like the Irish treaty in 1921, it was really about getting the PLO to do the dirty work of smashing Palestinian resistance.

The Israeli's allowed Arafat

to bring PLO members from across the Middle East to form his police force.

Many of them were drawn from armed units which had been cut off from the mass of the population for ten years.

At first the Palestinian police were greeted with jubilation.

Squalor

But conflict erupted when ordinary Palestinians saw that the peace deal was doing nothing about the poverty and squalor they were forced to live in.

Only a fraction of the promised international aid actually arrived.

After the Peace deal, Israel cut the number of work permits for Palestinians by two thirds.

Israeli politicians are now demanding a 'Palestinian free workforce'.

The peace treaty has only hidden the fact that Israel maintains complete military and political control over the Gaza strip and the West Bank.

Arafat has had to beg Clinton to pressurise the Israeli's for more concessions but he has been left empty handed.



WHO ARE THE HAMAS?

HAMAS were initially encouraged by the Israeli authorities in the late 1980s as a counterweight to 'PLO terrorism'.

Now they are Israel's most feared opponents.

Support for Hamas has grown as disillusionment with the PLO increased.

Even before the massacre an estimated 20% of the

Palestinian population supported them.

But most people do not share Hamas' goal of an Islamic state.

Compromise

Hamas is also divided between those who want to compromise with Arafat and the street fighter who want to destroy the Israeli

state.

After the massacre, Sheikh Abdullah Izak said:

"There will be more military activities against Israel but we don't want confrontation with the authority."

"Arafat and the authority are our brothers."

At the moment Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad are the only political alternative to the PLO for

Palestinians.

The older left wing non-religious groups have been completely marginalised.

However the contradictions within Hamas means that it cannot liberate Palestine any more than the PLO can.

Only a democratic, non-religious Palestine in which Arab and Jew live side by side can bring peace.

Italy's biggest demo for 50 years

ONE AND a half million workers, unemployed and pensioners joined the biggest demonstration in Italy since World War two in November.

The turnout further rocked the right wing coalition of prime minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Bossi, leader of the Northern League, is openly talking about breaking from the coalition.

Last month's demonstration comes on the back of October's half day general strike against a budget which contains £19 billion worth of cuts, including a massive attack on workers' pensions.

The demonstration included angry delegations from the areas in the north of Italy recently hit by floods which killed 64 people.

One of Berlusconi's close associates—Mario Palmiero, MP for one of the flood hit regions—is being investigated for not doing enough to warn people that the floods were coming.

There is also anger that Berlusconi is forcing through a bill which means people who have done illegal building work face only a fine.

It effectively sanctions the policy of low building standards that led to people being killed.

The fascists condemned the demonstrations. In response demonstrators gathered in the middle of a fascist stronghold in Rome and marched to where fascist leader Fini made a pro-Mussolini speech after the general election.

"More and more workers are getting involved in the protests," an eyewitness told Socialist Worker.

"But the trade union leaders want to give Berlusconi a chance to negotiate."

If the trade union leaders and the left wing opposition hand the advantage back to Berlusconi they also risk handing the advantage to the fascists.

U.S.A.

Clinton takes a hammering

Bill Clinton and the Democrats have been hit by a tidal wave of discontent.

Elections for the Senate and the House of Representatives last month saw the biggest political shake up since the 1930's.

The Democratic speaker of the Senate lost his seat—the first time a speaker has been thrown out since 1860.

Control of all the government committees will now switch to Republicans.

The Republican Party is out to slash government spending on welfare.

Newt Granger says "We're in the Thatcher/Regan tradition" and that Clinton's health care plans "are buried."

Many commentators are claiming that Americans have moved to the right, that the backlash against Clinton was a protest at his liberal policies.

But the real source of the Republican's sweeping victory

MEXICANS SCAPEGOATED

One of the issues voted on during this election was proposition 187 which came before the people of California.

This aimed to bar illegal immigrants from public education and social services.

Unfortunately many people accepted the racist notion that Mexican immigrants are to blame for the massive job losses in California over the last four years.

The proposition was passed. Scapegoating immigrants was central

was not their own policies - polls showed seven out of ten Americans did not know the Republican Party's platform.

The reason for Clinton's devastating losses are that he broke every election promise he made.

He said he would create jobs and a decent health service.

Instead America remains a country where there is no national health service and one in five people have no health insurance at all.

The gap between rich and poor has continued to widen.

Nearly one in six Americans live beneath the official poverty line.

to the campaign of failed Republican candidate Michael Huffington.

It has also been the policy of state Governor Pete Wilson.

The Democrats have done nothing to oppose this Proposition.

Only with a 70,000 strong march and protests by school students has the fight for immigrants' rights gathered pace.

Now there will be more battles ahead. Elsewhere the right had less success.

Voters threw out anti-gay proposals in two states and an abortion ban was defeated in another.

The growing low wage sector was described by the Washington Post.

"It is a risky and often cruel world where good workers bounce from employment to unemployment, to welfare and back, worrying about health insurance, child care and the employee pension they may never

This is what the Paras mean by peace

THIS IS the face of John Hillock after he met the Parachute regiment at the Monaghan bypass in Belfast.

John had set out home from work on Wednesday 16th November.

He was set upon by the group of soldiers from the First Battalion of the Parachute Regiment.

The same regiment had been involved in the murders of civilian in Bloody Sunday in Derry in 1972.

They punched and beat him viciously.

After the attack he was left with a fractured cheekbone and had to get four stitches.

The Paras kicked and stood on him while he was on the ground and left him concussed.

The following day they were back on patrol in the area.

Not a single soldier was charged after the incident.

The Paras were sent to West Belfast after the cease-fire to 'solve' the people.

Every day they maintain a big presence in the area while they pretend to carry out traffic checks.

Ever since the IRA ceasefire, harassment and intimidation have been meted out by the security forces.

The RUC have fired plastic bullets at people on three occasions in Cookstown, Dungannon and the Falls Road.

In Randalstown, the

Senior RUC man threatens burning out

SUPERINTENDENT Johnston was formerly one of the most senior RUC officers in Mid Ulster.

He has also been shown to be a sectarian bigot.

After one of his neighbours decided to sell a local pub to a Catholic family they got a note

from the Londonderry UFF. The note warned that "You and your family are going to be done for selling property to a Fenian. We will burn you in your bed".

The author of the note was none other than Superintendent Johnstone. At a subsequent trial he was given a suspended sentence and fined £1,000.

RUC fired live bullets into the air.

Raids on houses have also continued. Anne Marie Dawson from Twinbrook was awakened

at 5 am three weeks after the ceasefire.

Dragged

Her house was messed up and four children were

left behind after she was dragged off to Castlereagh.

In Tyrone, Patsy Quinn was stopped by RUC patrol in the early hours of a

Monday morning.

He was kicked and punched and received serious arm and head injuries.

The peace process has not changed the sectarian nature of the security forces.

While Mayhew and Major complain that the IRA and other paramilitaries maintain their stock of weapons, they have done nothing to reduce the presence of the 30,000 armed members of the security forces.

The activities of the police and soldiers show what hypocrites the Tories are.

SCRAP THE 11+

LAST MONTH one of the 11+ tests was scrapped after 18,500 children had sat it.

The reason for this was that Tory Minister Michael Ancram's department had given out parts of the test to a number of schools prior to the test.

The result is that these children will now be put through the same misery and worry of a resit.

An extra £100,000 will be spent on the new paper - money that should be used on books and resources.

The fiasco has exposed the crude class bias that lies behind this vicious test. The 11+ test decides what type of school children will be sent to for the rest of their secondary education.

The 30% who "pass it" are fortunate enough to go to grammar schools - the rest to secondary schools.

The fact that it is always 30% who pass shows it has

nothing to do with ability.

The effects of this exam especially on the 70% who 'fail' it are devastating.

An enormous amount of responsibility and pressure is placed on the shoulders of 11 year olds.

Some seek treatment for anxiety whilst others suffer from nervousness and bed-wetting.

The price of failure means wearing a distinctive uniform for 6 years

that tells the whole world you failed.

The type of school you end up at determines your chance of going to University or what type of job you get.

Typewriters

Most secondary schools have rooms full of typewriters to train pupils to be secretaries whilst in grammar schools they're only found in the admin office.

Not surprisingly if you're from a working class family the chance are you will end up in a secondary school. In 1992 for instance only 11 children on the Shankill Road passed their 11+.

The Tory Ministers have a different experience of education.

Take Michael Ancram. He went to Ampleforth College in Yorkshire - a private school with £10,000

fees a year.

For 25 years of the de-facto apartheid regime the Unionist Government defended the class biased system to the hilt.

Ever since Unionist and Nationalist politicians have not uttered one complaint against it. Even during the recent furore it was the teaching unions that came out against the test whilst every politician kept silent.

But 87% of the population, according to the Ulster Newsletter, are against it.

The 11+ survives in Northern Ireland because of the right wing policies of Unionists and Nationalist politicians. They have a vested interest in keeping workers divided. They see the 11+ as a way of letting bright middle class kids from 'their community' get ahead.

The teachers union should now mount a major campaign to scrap this horrible test.

Exam based on phoney 'research'

THE 11+ was introduced into Britain and N. Ireland in the 1940s.

The justification for the two-tier system of education was based largely on the work of a London Psychologist - Cyril Burt.

Burt claimed to have carried out IQ tests on 52 pairs of identical twins separated at birth.

Supposedly there was a high correlation between the results leading Burt to the conclusion that 'intelli-

gence' was fixed and measurable. In the 1970s Burt was declared a fraud.

It was discovered that his test was never published and reports he used never existed.

Burt's two assistant researchers were fictitious and his calculations were statistically impossible.

Even though the 11+ was abolished in Britain in the 1980s and Burt disgraced in the early 1970s - the test lives on here.

Comment

Can the RUC be reformed?

by **EAMONN McCANN**

IN THE three months since the IRA ceasefire, many meetings and seminars on policing have been held in Nationalist areas of the North.

The main, virtually unanimous, conclusion has been that the RUC is completely unacceptable.

But no clear plan for an alternative has emerged.

The general reason is that it's meaningless to consider policing in isolation from other, more basic aspects of society.

People in Catholic working-class areas are justified in rejecting the RUC.

It has been an aggressive, sectarian and oppressive force in their midst, not just for the past 25 years but ever since the Northern state was set up.

Hostility to the RUC is now so widely-held and deeply-rooted as to make it impossible to imagine it ever being trusted, no matter what assurances or reforms are offered as part of the "peace process".

It's against this background that SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon has suggested the establishment of four separate police forces for different regions; that various academic "experts" have toyed with the notion of a "two-tier" force, one to handle serious crime and "political" offences, another to deal with "ordinary" misdemeanours; and some around the republican movement have floated the idea of a patchwork pattern of "community police", recruited from and accountable to immediate localities.

Divided

These schemes only have to be imagined in action for their unreality to made plain.

Even in its own terms, Mallon's scheme would only work if the North could be neatly divided into four districts, each overwhelmingly Catholic or Protestant.

As it is, how could the New Lodge be fitted in, or the Fountain in Derry?

And would we see frantic car-chases as fugitives fled for the "border" with a more friendly force's area?

Would there be "internal" extradition procedures?

Under the "two-tier" system, what would the "ordinary" police do when they stumbled on a "crime" appropriate to the "political" police?

And who would decide which offences fell into which category on which occasions? There's car-hijacking and car-hijacking, after all.

How could "community police", presumably equipped and funded by the state, be accountable to local people, given that they would have been set up precisely because local people were at odds with the state?

Who would they hand miscreants over to for punishment?

That all of these ideas—

and there are many variations—have been put forward in recent weeks by serious-minded people shows that the entire basis of the discussion is misplaced.

To discuss a solution to the "policing problem" outside the context of the political situation generally is to guarantee that the discussion goes nowhere.

The RUC developed as a sectarian force because its function was to defend a sectarian state: all police forces, of necessity, take on the attitudes and ethos of the states they serve.

Oppression

Anybody who thinks this can be avoided in the North by means of a separate force for Catholic areas should take note of what's happened with the "Palestinian" police in Gaza.

But the problem goes even deeper. The police in all class-divided societies are agencies of oppression, because their fundamental purpose is to defend the existing set-up.

So even if the border was gone and the North incorporated into an all-Ireland capitalist state, the cops would still be oppressors of the working class.

By the same token, the RUC today is an agency for the oppression of the Shankill as well as the Falls. And the guards are agents for oppression in Dardale.

The fact that the RUC on the Shankill and the guards in Dardale come from the same ethnic-religious background as those they oppress is irrelevant.

It's also irrelevant that many people can be found on the Shankill and in Dardale (although rightly as many as is commonly assumed) to say that they "support" their local police force.

That delusion is common the world over until working-class people are self-involved in struggle against their oppression—at which point they have no need of experts to spell out the real role of the police in their lives.

There will be no solution to the problem of policing in the North through setting up a separate Catholic force.

The solution will be found only in the context of dealing with the problem of a working class divided by the sectarianism which has characterised the Northern state.

To say this is not to end the argument. It is merely to offer a starting point from which the argument might proceed in a constructive, socialist direction.

CHILD ABUSE:

The Bishops' cover is blown



THE Catholic hierarchy has known all along that a number of priests have engaged in child sex abuse.

Victims of Fr Brendan Smyth in Belfast wrote to Cardinal Cathal Daly to complain about what was happening.

He acknowledged that there were problems with the priest but claimed that he could do nothing.

Smyth was shifted from parish to parish. Since there were several complaints over forty years, he was moved from parishes in America, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Bishop Thomas Achonry explained the Church's attitude in the *Sunday Business Post*.

"Bishops tended to see it as similar to a situation where a priest fell in love with a lady. You took him out of temptation and hoped he would get better."

In this warped thinking all sexual activity was bad and the abuse of children was no better or worse than sex between men and women.

Clamped Down

Before the Smyth case, the Church hierarchy clamped down on every attempt to reveal the scandal.

A *Sunday Tribune* questionnaire was sent to Ireland's 24 bishops and archbishops and to the 40 heads of religious orders. It asked whether they had ever received a complaint of alleged child abuse.

The questionnaire was almost totally ignored.

Only 11 out of 64 replied. Mayo priest Fr Kevin Hegarty tried to raise the issue when he was editor of the Catholic magazine *Intercom*.

He published a series of hard hitting questions on clerical child abuse.

But after the articles appeared, Fr Hegarty found that his contract was not renewed.

There are also grounds for believing that the Church tried to cover up the Smyth scandal.

Whelehan was lying when he said that there had to be a seven month delay because there was no legal precedent.

But two years previously he had dealt with a similar case involving an ex-monk called Duggan.

Whelehan was lying to cover the fact that the case was delayed as a favour to the Catholic hierarchy.

Newspapers indicate that there are more scandals to come which could rock the Catholic Church to its foundations.

But why do priests abuse children?

Catholics priests are supposed to be celibate all their lives.

They regularly preach sermons which denounce all form of sexual activity that are not geared to "procreating" children.

They end up with ideas that sex is dirty and carried out in great secrecy.

Instead of being a basic human need, they see it as someone using some one else.

Terrify

Irish priests have always had tremendous power.

They could terrify children and expect no recriminations.

People like Fr Smyth were feared by thousands of school children.

They came to believe that they go do anything they wanted and no one would speak out.

No wonder that many of them thought that they could impose their distorted idea of sex on the very children in their care.

By imposing its repressive ideas of sexuality on priests, and at the same time giving priests unlimited power, the Church created a climate where child abuse was inevitable.

The blame should be placed on the Hierarchy, where it belongs.

Until the power of the Church over the education system is broken, the scandal will continue.

Fianna Fail: Caught in corruption

ALBERT Reynolds has been disgraced.

In front of a million and a half television viewers he was found to be telling a bare faced lie about the Fr Brendan Smyth affair.

Reynolds was destroyed because he overreached himself trying to get Harry Whelehan onto the High Court.

Whelehan was the type of man that FF wanted for high office. He had mixed in the elite circle of Irish society for decades.

He ran a successful private law practice. He bought cheap flats in Mespil Road alongside Reynolds daughter and was hoping to evict the tenants. In the 1960s, he was an active member of the FF party in UCD.

Whelehan was also believed to be strong on 'family values'. He was involved in the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council. Within days of becoming an Attorney General, he slapped an injunction on a 14 year old rape victim to stop her leaving Ireland to have an abortion.

He wanted to force her to go ahead with her pregnancy.

Operate

When it came to standing up for what FF wanted, there was no better man than Harry Whelehan.

Whelehan knew how the Irish ruling class wanted to operate.

He bent over backwards to cover up for them and protect their veil of secrecy.

This is why Reynolds was prepared to stick his neck out for him.

During the Beef Tribunal Whelehan got Supreme Court political hacks to rule that all Cabinet discussion were secret.

Dick Spring said: "It was a deliberate manoeuvre aimed at protecting the Taoiseach personally".

After Reynolds granted the Irish rich a tax amnesty, Whelehan instructed the Controller General to give out no details on those who had benefited.

In that way the activities of the Irish rich would not be exposed.

Reynolds backed Whelehan for the High Court as a payoff for the lawyer's past favours to Fianna Fail.

This was nothing personal, but a typical example of the way Fianna Fail has always operated.



FF's alliance with the

"THE STATE recognises the special position of the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church as the guardian of the Faith professed by the majority of the citizens".

This bit of sectarian nonsense was an article of in the Irish Constitution until 1972. It was only removed with the consent of the Bishops.

But it still remains a simple statement of how Fianna Fail gave the church tremendous power in Irish society.

Fianna Fail have always formed an alliance with the Bishops in order to mask class divisions in Irish society. For them nationalism and Catholicism were intimately linked. The wanted the Green Flag with

the Coat of Arms of the Vatican.

In 1926 when the party was first formed one of its leaders Sean T O Kelly proclaimed that "We of Fianna Fail believe that we speak for the big body of Catholic opinion".

Five years later De Valera proved more determined about winning the sectarian vote when he called for the sacking of a Protestant librarian in Mayo.

'Propagandist'

He argued that the job of a librarian was 'not just a mere passive position of handing down books' but was "of a propagandist, educational character" and Protestant should not be let do it.

FF's constitution of 1937 was dedicated to the 'Holy Trinity'.

No politician in Dail Eireann to this very day has ever proposed removing this piece of theology from the present Constitution.

The alliance with the Bishops served FF well.

Between them they managed to crush every single small flickering of left wing ideas.

In the 1940s FF and the Bishops joined forces to split the Labour Party and the Unions.

The *Catholic Standard* denounced the 'communist infiltration' of the Labour by Jim Larkin. Two separate Labour Parties and union congress were set up.

The right wing National Labour party and the Congress of Irish Unions were close to the Bishops.

In the 1960s, the FF Leader Jack Lynch did a famous 'tour of the convents' to get out the vote against

the Reds in the Irish Labour Unionist regime in the North. Through these methods the Bishops established a ian state in the South.

Mirror image

It was a mirror image of the Unionist regime in the North. They pretended to oppose. Control of hospitals and were handed over to the Right to this day there are multi-denominational schools in Ireland.

Fr Brendan Smyth was a priest who had even less power in the schools than his counterparts in the South.

Working class people suffered most from build up in power in the South.

The ABC of socialism

Is religion the opium of the people?

by KEVIN WINGFIELD

MARX wrote: "Religious suffering is at one and the same time the expression of real suffering and a protest against real suffering."

"Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people."

All the world's religions started out as movements of the oppressed looking for salvation in the here and now.

At a later stage these religions have been adopted by the rich and by the state as a means of reconciling the poor to the existing order.

Christianity, for example, grew up among the Jewish poor in the middle-eastern cities of the Roman empire. It was hostile to the rich and emphasised a shared community among the poor.

When Roman rule in Palestine was in threatened, Christians were persecuted by the authorities and their collaborators among the Jewish aristocrats.

The biblical texts of the time show how the early Christians believed their movement would transform life on earth.

The bible records the Lord's message to Mary:

"He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands."

Far from meekly accepting worldly oppression, Luke quotes Jesus as saying: **"Whoever does not have a sword must sell his coat and buy one."**

Believers were persuaded that things would change soon: "The Kingdom of God

is at hand".

The promise was not fulfilled.

After a time Christianity began to attract the support of the rich as a means of welding together rich and poor in the Roman empire.

"The Kingdom of God is not of this world" and "suffer little children to come unto me" were emphasised as Christianity was

into the ranks of the Bolshevik party provided they accepted the party's socialist aims.

The Bolsheviks also championed the rights of the persecuted non-conforming religious sects in Tsarist Russia against the power of the established Orthodox church.

Private

Religion is a private matter.

We are for full freedom of religious observance.

But we fight against the power of the Church hierarchy and its privileged position in the state.

In Ireland the Church controls schools, hospitals and colleges.

Top state officials are organised in shadowy Catholic secret societies.

The "Special Position" of the Catholic Church is written into the Constitution.

Medicant monks are allowed free travel on buses while unemployed youngsters are prosecuted—and have been jailed—for not paying a fare.

The socialist response is to demand a complete separation of Church and State.

But above all we want to see a workers' movement fighting oppression and exploitation.

In this way, whatever their private religious convictions, ordinary people can set their sights on the transformation of this world, rather than passively waiting for salvation in the next.



a web of

NOTHING CLEAN ABOUT AHERN

Bertie Ahern is trying to present a new image of FF.

He needs to win back many who have left the party in disgust and to pretend to be pro-union and pro-working class.

But his leadership will do nothing to change the right wing corrupt nature of FF.

Ahern sat in on the FF cabinet which tried to cover up the Smyth case. He heard the report from the new Attorney General which revealed that Whelehan was lying when he explained the seven month delay in dealing with Fr Brendan Smyth.

Now he says that he never understood the 'significance' of the report.

But every single person who heard Dick Spring's speech in the Dáil understood the significance of the lies the FF cabinet was telling.

Ahern says now that he has 'no explanation' of why the Smyth case was left lie for seven months. He is trying to hide the obvious explanation.

Fianna Fail were doing everything to cover up the case of a priest involved in child abuse.

Ahern is also deeply involved in raising money for the FF party machine.

Ahern has been the FF Financial director for the last year. In a drive to reduce the party's debt, he has raised £3 million in one year.

The money did not come from church gate collection or from the pockets of ordinary supporters. Rich businessmen are giving huge donations to the party now, before the Ethics Bill makes them declare their donations.

Despite claims about his "working class roots", Ahern used to work as a major accountant. He prefers to keep company with right wing businessmen, including Jim Lacy from the National Irish Bank and Chris Wall from the Wellcome drug company.

On taking over as leader of FF, Ahern announced that he would try to scrap the Residential Property Tax.

This affects those with homes valued at over £100,000.

Instead he wants to replace it with a local poll tax.

Ahern has always stood up for more favours for the rich. As Minister for Finance he presided over the working of the Irish Financial Services Centre.

The Centre's financial sharks pay only a 10% tax rate. They pay no rates and get a double rental allowance for ten years, to offset against their small tax bill. All this is thanks to Fianna Fail.

Ahern has well groomed in the party tradition of "looking after business".

He will bring no change but only preside over the corrupt machine that has given tremendous power to the bishops in Ireland.

Separate Church and State

FIANNA FAIL and the Bishops are weaker now than they ever were in Irish history.

Up to the 1970s, FF had 12,000 members in Dublin. Today they have only 2,000.

The series of scandals involving bishops and priests have shown up the hypocrisy of the hierarchy who claim to be 'moral guardians of their flock'.

Thousands of married women are seeking work and believe that they have a right to control their bodies.

Denounce

Many workers are no longer prepared to listen to Bishops who denounce their struggles.

When Bishops Cumiskey attacked the 'disruption' of TEAM workers this summer, he was just laughed at.

But there is still a fight to uproot the type of state that

FF and the Bishops built in the South.

Until that is done there will be more scandals like the Smyth affair.

Bigots like Judge O'Hanlon, who claim to interpret the law according to the rule of God, should be thrown off the bench.

Our schools and hospitals have to be taken back from Church control.

Any coalition between the left wing parties and Fine Gael or Fianna Fail will stop short of taking the measures which can bring real change.

What Ireland needs to day is organisation that sets out to overthrow both states that built up the 'carnival of reaction' which Connolly predicted.

That can only happen when we build a party that stands for secular and revolutionary change.

The Church

Labour Party. methods FF and lished a sectar-

image

image of the the North which oppose. The alliance of FF well to the Church. There are only 15 onal schools in

th was a parish in less power of its counterparts

people have suff-ild up in Church

to politician in De-very day has ex-iving this piece of-resent Commis-The alliance of FF well to the Church. There are only 15 onal schools in

When a sleeping giant began to rise...

THE STRIKE THAT CHANGED AMERICA

TEAMSTER REBELLION by Farrell Dobbs is a book every socialist should read.

It is an eyewitness account of an American truck drivers' strike for recognition of their union, the Teamsters, in Minneapolis in 1934.

This was a year of recovery for US workers after a period of defeats and little resistance to the bosses.

Alongside the Teamsters, strikes by car workers in Toledo and dock workers in San Francisco saw the old union leaders swept aside.

Teamster Rebellion shows how workers can begin to recover their confidence, how bitterness accumulated over years can suddenly break through, and how socialists can play a key part in organising the battles that follow.

Dobbs recalls how, "Not a single Teamsters' strike had been won in the city for 20 years."

The bosses in the US had been on the attack since World War One.

Back in 1919 there had been a massive wave of struggle. This was broken by the defeat of the Great Steel Strike, smashed by mass scabbing organised by the employers.

Nationally, the bosses drove home their advantage. They effectively banned strikes, outlawed unionisation and blacklisted socialists.

Union membership dropped to 3 per cent.

Things got worse with the onset of the Depression following the Wall

Street Crash of 1929.

Some 18 million workers were thrown out of work, a million of them forced to scour the countryside looking for jobs.

Those in work suffered speed-ups, wage cuts and longer hours.

The official trade union organisation, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) left workers to their fate.

"Business unionism" flourished. Sweetheart deals were struck. Workers were actually kept out of unions.

Yet come 1933 the situation began to change.

There were two reasons for this.

Firstly the economy began to pick up slightly. Unemployment dropped by two million—albeit from 16 million—but it meant industry was recruiting. This gave workers a new degree of confidence.

Secondly Democratic president Roosevelt had been elected the year before by wooing workers' votes. He promised a New Deal, including the right for workers to organise.

Roosevelt had no intention of honouring this, but his promise gave impetus to the fight for unionism.

There were strikes throughout 1933 over wages and union recognition.

This was the situation which laid the ground for the Teamsters' rebellion of 1934.

The victory edition of *The Organizer*, the strike bulletin for the teamsters.

Teamster Rebellion is available from Bookmarks. Send £8.95 + £1 postage to PO Box 1648, Dublin 8



'People took sides'

THE BATTLE in Minneapolis began with a dispute in the city coal yards.

For years a small group of socialists, Farrell Dobbs among them, had been trying to organise the coal haulers.

They launched a Teamsters' union drive among the coal haulers and pushed for strike action.

These truck drivers were a small group of workers, but of strategic importance—as the coal yard bosses found out when the haulers walked off the job in the winter of 1933-4.

The union which they had joined refused to back them. But by the time a telegram arrived from union headquarters the workers had won. "The whirlwind action had caught the bosses unprepared."

The strikers also invented a new weapon of struggle—cruising pickets.

These were cars of strikers who patrolled the streets stopping scab wagons. This proved invaluable in the big fight to come.

The success was not lost on other workers in the city.

"Electrified by the victory, union members gained self-confidence and thousands of unorganised workers lifted their eyes towards the union movement with a new sense of hope."

Preparations were now made to organise the truckers throughout the city.

Wage demands were drawn up, alongside demands for union recognition.

The membership of the local Teamster branch leapt from 75 to 3,000 in a matter of weeks.

The mass of the city's unemployed, a third of the population, were organised to stop them being used as scab labour.

A women's "auxiliary" was set up so that "they could be drawn into the heat of the battle." They played a crucial role in the strike—organising, protesting and doing delegation work to bring in much needed solidarity from other workers.

For their part, the trucking bosses organised themselves into a Citizens' Alliance to launch a scabbing operation.

On 16 May 1934 the strike started. It was completely unlawful.

Cruising pickets shut down every trucking firm in the city. Mass pickets were despatched wherever the bosses tried to move goods.

Union membership quickly rose to 6,000. The national leaders were sidelined, reduced to issuing calls for a return to work and for a secret ballot.

A "committee of 100" was set up to run the strike and mass meetings

were called every day.

The committee showed real democracy at work. It was made up of the best activists, including socialists like Dobbs, and answerable to the strikers from day to day.

The city's newspapers became the mouthpiece of the Citizens' Alliance, so the strikers set up a rank and file daily paper, *The Organizer*. It proved to be the cement that held the strike together.

There were battles won and lost

during the course of the strike.

Police and hired thugs attacked pickets. There were pitched battles in the streets.

To stay within the law in these circumstances would have meant to be smashed.

On Bloody Friday armed police opened fire on a picket line. Two strikers were killed. But instead of cowering the workers it drew in people not previously involved.

"Most people felt they had to take sides on a class basis," writes Dobbs. More workers struck.

The funeral procession for one of the fallen drew 40,000 workers behind it.

The state governor declared a "state of insurrection" and brought

in troops. They surrounded the strike headquarters and arrested the leadership.

Scab trucks were now protected by soldiers, but still the strikers did not give way.

The governor was forced to release those arrested. The Citizens' Alliance began to crumble.

Smaller trucking bosses were desperate to settle after over two months of strike action.

A federal negotiator, who no one knew existed, was brought in to make a deal.

The workers' demands were met. The headline of *The Organizer* of 22 August declared "Victory!"

The Teamster rebellion had won against the odds.

Teamster rebellion electrified workers

THE SUCCESS of the Teamsters' strike did not immediately lead to a massive upturn in the struggle. But coming at the same time as successful struggles to unionise the car plants at Toledo and the San Francisco docks it signalled a change in the fortunes of American workers.

In Toledo socialists were also involved in the strike.

Again it was run by a strike committee, and masses of workers defied troops and the law on their way to winning recognition.

In San Francisco a small group of dock workers organised around the Communist Party launched a

rank and file paper, *The Dockworker*, and spread their influence enough to build an all-out dock strike.

Two years later a wave of struggles erupted. Out of these a new trade union federation, the Congress of Industrial Organisations (CIO) was launched.

The CIO saw the need to go beyond the small groups of workers organised in the AFL and to recruit among unorganised workers in new industries like the car plants.

The Teamsters' victory was vital to this.

It showed millions of workers it was possible to fight and win if they organised independently from union leaders and defied the law.

South Korean socialists jailed

A picket was held at the South Korean embassy in Ballsbridge on Tuesday 15th November to demand the release of 33 members of the International Socialists jailed by the Seoul authorities.

Twenty four of the 33 are charged with being members of an "enemy benefiting" organisation. This is code for saying they support North Korea - an allegation which they reject.

The real reason for their

arrest is that they have stood up to the brutality of the South Korean rulers and have supported workers and students in their struggles against the regime.

The West claims South Korea are the 'good guys' in the region - in reality they are just as bad as their counterparts in North Korea.

President Kim Young Sam wants to bring South Korea into the Group of Seven in-

dustrial nations. But he still presides over the jailing of people who oppose his rule.

The socialists were charged on the basis of evidence that they had attended Marxism in London an event freely attended by socialists from all over the world.

Socialists are allowed to organise in the Western democracies which Kim Young Sam wants to join. They should have the same rights in South Korea.

An open letter was handed into the South Korean embassy demanding that the 33 be released and that all charges against them be unconditionally dropped.

What we stand for

Workers create all the wealth in capitalist society. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be reformed out of existence. Parliament cannot be used to end the system. It has to be overthrown.

The machinery of the capitalist state—parliament, courts, army, police etc.—is there to defend the interests of the capitalist class, not to run society in a 'neutral' fashion.

To destroy capitalism, workers need to smash the state and create a workers' state based on workers' councils.

FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST:

The SWM welcomed the break-up of the USSR and the end of the East European dictatorships. These states were not socialist but were run by a state-capitalist class. Workers' revolutions are needed to win real freedom in the East.

We are against the domination of the globe by imperialist powers and we oppose their wars. We are for the right of all nations, East and West, to self-determination.

FOR AN END TO ALL OPPRESSION

We oppose all forms of oppression which divide and weaken the working class. We are for full social, economic and political equality for women.

We stand for: free contraception and free, legalised abortion and the right to divorce; the complete separation of church and state, an end to church control over schools and hospitals; an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians; an end to racism and anti-traveller bigotry.

We argue for working class unity in the fight against oppression.

FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH:

Northern Ireland is a sectarian state, propped up by the British Army.

Catholic workers are systematically discriminated against by the state. The division between Catholic and Protestant workers weakens the whole working class.

Workers' unity can only be won and maintained in a fight to smash both the Northern and Southern states.

We stand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops. Violence will only end when workers unite in the fight for a workers' republic.

FOR A FIGHTING TRADE UNION MOVEMENT:

Trade unions exist to defend workers' interests. But the union leaders' role is to negotiate with capitalism—not to end it.

We support the leaders when they fight but oppose them when they betray workers. We stand for independent rank and file action.

FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY:

To win socialism socialists need to organise in a revolutionary party. This party needs to argue against right-wing ideas and for overthrowing the system. The SWM aims to build such a party in Ireland.

What's on

Belfast Central

Meets every Wednesday 8pm. Cathedral Buildings Room 8, 64, Donegall Sq. Weds 30th

PUBLIC MEETING:

Eamonn McCann, After the ceasefire, what next?

Weds 7th Do genes determine behaviour
Weds 14th Are all men sexist?

Belfast South

Meets every Thursday, 8pm, for details contact national office.
Thurs 1st Islam: Oppression or Liberation
Thurs 8th Teamster rebellion: How to win a strike
Thurs 15th Are all men sexist?

Cork

Meets every Thursday, 8pm, Anchor Inn, Georges Quay.

Thurs 1st **PUBLIC MEETING: CONNOLLY HALL**

Thurs 8th Country or class? Irish Nationalism and socialism

Thurs 15th The Revolutionary Ideas of Karl Marx

Derry

Meets every Tuesday, 8pm, Badgers Pub, Orchard St.
Tues 29th Who are the ruling class?

Tues 6th Stop the repression of East Timor
Tues 13th The Paris Commune of 1871

Dublin Drimnagh

Meets every Tuesday, upstairs Halfway House, Walkinstown Rd.

Tues 29th Why we support Travellers rights

Tues 6th Country or class? Irish Nationalism and Socialism.

Tues 13th What's behind the crisis of Church and State

Dublin North Central

Meets every Wednesday, 8pm, Conway's Pub, Parnell St.

Weds 30th Child Abuse - who's to blame

Weds 6th Do genes govern behaviour?

Weds 13th Are all men sexist?

Weds 20th The Revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx

Dublin Phibsboro

Meets every Thursday, 8pm, The Hut, Phibsboro
Thurs 31st Do genes govern behaviour?

Thurs 7th Child abuse - who's to blame?

Thurs 14th Who was Trotsky?

Thurs 21th Country or

For details of Socialist Worker meetings and activities in other areas telephone (01) 872 2682 or write to PO Box 1648 Dublin 8

Class? Irish Nationalism and Socialism.

Dublin South Central

Meets every Thursday 8pm Trinity Inn, Pearse St.

Thurs 31st Students and revolution

Thurs 7th The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx

Dublin Southside

Meets every Wednesday, 8pm, Clarke's Bar, 11 Wexford St.

Weds 30th The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx

Weds 6th Country or class? Irish Nationalism and Socialism

Weds 13th What's behind the crisis of Church and state?

Weds 20th What is human nature?

Tallaght/Clondalkin

Meet every other Mon, 8pm in Clondalkin. Contact National Office for details.

Dundalk

Meets every Wednesday at 8pm, in the Bridge Inn

Dun Laoghaire

Meets every Tuesday, 8.15pm upstairs in the Purty Loft.

Maynooth

Meets every other Thursday, 1pm, Tutorial Room 5, Maynooth University Arts Block.

Waterford

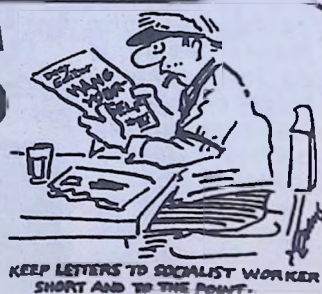
Meets every Thursday, 8pm, ATGWU Hall, Keyser St.

Thurs 31st What's behind the crisis of Fianna Fail?

Thurs 7th Islam: Liberation or Oppression?

LETTERS to the editor

Agree? Disagree? You can send your letters to: *Socialist Worker*, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8



KEEP LETTERS TO SOCIALIST WORKER SHORT AND TO THE POINT.

Exiled by the Tories

I AM now homeless in Dublin as a result of the Criminal Justice Bill which the Tories have brought into Britain.

I lived with my family in a caravan site in Britain for 8 years.

Three days after the Bill

was passed an armed raid of about 140 police attacked the site.

They smashed up my caravan.

My kids were in tears as glass shattered all over them. I was dragged out feet first with a gun at my head.

The rich people who live up near the suspension

bridge in Bristol have always hated us.

They say that we spoil their view.

The CJB has allowed them to set the police on us in this fashion.

So now I am over here selling *The Big Issue* and starting from scratch.

ALISTAIR, DUBLIN

Connolly and the Rising

I enjoyed very much the article on James Connolly in last month's *Socialist Worker*. But I would have one or two disagreements with it.

First, Connolly was born in 1868, not 1869 as you have.

Second, I think you should criticise some of what Connolly did in 1916.

I don't agree with people

who say he gave up on socialism, but he should have put more emphasis on the working class instead of agreeing with the strategy of Pearse and the rest.

He did tell workers to hold onto their rifles, as you say, but I don't believe that's enough.

I have no problem with fighting together with middle class nationalists, but workers have to stand on their own two feet or we get beaten.

Apart from that I think it was a very good article indeed and I hope to see more of the same in *Socialist Worker*. Keep up the good work.

KATHLEEN MAGGATAWNEY, DUBLIN

SIPTU let in contract workers

SIPTU officials and its Section Committee at Irish Steel recommended to its members that they accept 111 redundancies, some of the compulsory.

These workers were paid the reasonable rate of £5.60 per hour. The amazing thing is that over half of these jobs are to be directly replaced by contract workers. These private contractors will work in security, canteen and cleaning facilities.

These workers are paid between £3.30 and £3.50 per hour. But they are also members of SIPTU. It seems that SIPTU don't care about workers' wages any more as long as they get their contributions at the end of the week.

JIM O'LEARY, CORK

JOIN US!

If you would like to join the SWM or receive more details, send this slip to: SWM, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Tel: (01) 872 2682 or PO Box 103 Belfast 15 2AB

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Exposed: Knights in condom sticker rumpus

MYSTERIOUS anti-condom stickers have started to appear around Ireland. *Socialist Worker's* ace reporter, John Serge, set out to investigate.

The Department of Health has expressed concern that stickers which claim that condoms actually spread AIDS have begun to appear across the country.

The high quality stickers fly in the face of medical research and claim that the HIV virus is capable of escaping through the microscopic pores in a condom.

Sleuth

Posing as an individual interested in distributing these stickers, this sleuth reporter rang Dr Gerard Casey, chair of the Christian Centre Party. Dr Casey, a lecturer in philosophy in UCD told me:

"If you want to stick a few up, great. Every little bit helps. Your best bet is the Knights. This is their baby."

The "Knights" whom Dr Casey referred to are none other than the Knights of Columbanus. This is an all-male, Catholic group whose members are pledged to help each other in business. The Knights have been described as the "Catholic freemasons".

When I contacted the Knights they were wary until I told them I had been referred to the Knights by Dr Casey. The Knights' secretary produced seven of the stickers from her handbag.

"I always keep some

on me," she explained. "We've a huge roll down stairs. But I don't have the key."

At this point she gave me the phone number of the man who she said was behind the stickers.

She explained that this person, a former senior member of the Knights, had wanted to use the group to distribute the American-produced stickers, but "the rest of the Knights decided that it would be extremely embarrassing to be identified with this sort of stuff."

As a result, she said, the stickers are being distributed on the quiet.

False

According to medical experts and AIDS activists the information contained in the stickers is false and misleading. Mags Geraghty of AIDS Alliance commented:

"This is a classic case of misinformation. While the stickers tell you that the virus is incredibly small, they don't tell you that it cannot move through a condom of its own accord."

"It must be transferred in the fluids and cells which make up the semen. These are hundreds of times bigger than the pore in a condom and, unless the condom bursts during intercourse, the virus cannot pass through a condom."

Essential reading

THE International Socialism Journal is essential reading for all socialists.

In contains two very important articles. In 'The Prophet and the Proletariat' Chris Harman looks at the rise of Islamic fundamentalism.

The Western press has whipped up racism and fear against Muslim people.

But they ignore the fact that Islamic movements make a direct appeal to the poor in the huge cities that have developed in North Africa and the Middle East. They try to connect up their discontent to the grievances of the landless and merchant classes.

These movements claim to challenge the domination of the big Western companies. But they also target women's rights and the rights of minorities such as the Berbers in Algeria or the Copts in Egypt.

Harman argues that socialists will sometimes find themselves on the same side as the Islamic movements and should never back the state which tries to repress them. This is particularly important in Algeria where the military imposed a coup after Islamic parties won a general election.

But Harman also argues that Islamic movements can never solve the problems of the poor and try to compromise with the state.

The other key article is 'What is Changing in Ireland' written by Kieran Allen. The article argues that the two great pillars of conservatism in the South—Flanna Fail and the Catholic Church—are being weakened. It also looks at a number of developments in the Protestant working class and the rise of a new Catholic middle class.

It argues that Irish socialists now have tremendous opportunities. If they fail to grasp them, right wing identity politics can come to the fore.

International Socialism Journal, £3 plus £1 postage from Bookmarks P.O. Box 1848 Dublin 8

Pulp Fiction

Reviewed by **DAMIEN MCGLOUGHLIN**

DIRECTED by Hollywood's new "Boy Wonder", Quentin Tarantino, *Pulp Fiction* comes after the thrilling *Reservoir Dogs* and *True Romance*.

It self-consciously rips-off lurid 1940s American crime novels and B-movies, and is smattered with gruesome killings carried out in a funny, black, absurdist way.

For some, this is violence with laughs.

Is there any point looking for a point in these unnecessary killings and drug crazes?

Life, for Tarantino, is violent, and his films reflect this.

"Well would you watch a car park or a car crash?" he sneers.

While *Reservoir Dogs* drew howls from the new puritans, Tarantino this year won the Palme d'Or at Cannes with *Pulp Fiction*.

At the same time, *Natural Born Killers*, for which Tarantino wrote the screenplay, has been banned in Ireland.

Tarantino sees warped 20th Century built on a his-

tory of brutal wars.

What both films vividly demonstrate is that when

you fire bullets into a human being, it's terrifying and it hurts real bad—a novel idea in Hollywood.

Pulp Fiction has six and a half murders. It's a lot more laid back than *Reservoir Dogs*, less thrilling

but funnier.

One of its many brilliant points is the lingering on inconsequential small talk of burgers and foot massages. It is a film which will outrage the right.

If there is a message, it's

Jules's lines near the end, saying there is no truth, no right or wrong, just weak and strong and the world is really fucked up.

People will be talking about this film for a long time to come.



U2: Heroes of the Northside?

CATHERINE CURRAN reviews 'Race of Angels: Ireland and the Genesis of U2', by John Waters, Black Staff, £12.99



OVER the past few years, John Waters has stood as the voice of those on the outside of the official political culture in Ireland.

In his last book, *Jiving at the Crossroads*, he launched an attack on what he calls the Dublin 4 mentality.

Waters believes that the "official version" of Irish society, promoted by RTE and Dublin 4 liberals, derides and excludes all those on the periphery—Northsiders, rural dwellers, and even Flanna Fail.

Race of Angels seeks to explain how U2 came out of the suburbs of North Dublin and went on to become one of the most successful rock bands in the world.

Waters argues that the 1960s revolt against the catholic church was being acted out on the nation's television screens, on the *Late Late Show* and elsewhere.

Irrelevant

But for the generations who grew up in the 1970's, this debate seemed irrelevant.

The concern about national identity and national culture had little meaning.

They were especially meaningless to the young people growing up in Dublin's sprawling Northside suburbs.

For groups that emerged from this environment, like U2 and the Virgin Prunes, being "Irish" meant little or nothing.

They were seen, and saw themselves, as outsiders.

The Virgin Prunes was local slang for the residents of the psychiatric hospital off Cedarwood Road.

The group led by Gavin Friday that adopted this name could easily identify with the alienation and rootlessness of people in a mental hospital.

They saw themselves as social outcasts living in a concrete prison.

This alienation prompted young musicians like U2 to pick up on the influences of the British punk rock scene.

In Britain and America, punk was an act of rebellion against both the establishment and the complacency of rock and roll.

Control

Punk was an attempt to assert control—to connect with others who were outside the system.

Although punk was ultimately undermined and neutralised, U2 was able to use it as a springboard to create new sounds.

U2 paved the way for a whole generation of musicians who were not afraid to experiment and tread on the sacred cows of Irish music, whether rock or otherwise—The Pogues, the Saw Doctors and more.

For Waters, the new Irish music is important for one main reason.

It holds the possibility of creating a new Irish national culture in place of the old one that has stagnated.

Faced with an ever-encompassing world market and global capitalist system, the culture of peripheral nations must be defended, he argues.

At this point, the argument takes a very reactionary turn.

"National boundaries

and local cultural integrities will become increasingly useless in the face of the planetary forces bearing down on us.

Campaign

"Over the past couple of decades, the Western citizen has been subjected to a relentless campaign designed to soften up his hold on the concepts of nationhood, community and home."

This could sound dangerously like an argument in favour of immigration controls used by neo-nazi groups across Europe.

Waters looks for some connection between Irish rock music and a mythical Celtic past.

Yet he seems to have forgotten that U2 and other bands grew just because they had nothing to do with the symbols of Irish nationalism, which people recognised as the symbols of the ruling class.

The vitality of the music comes from the fact that it borrows images and sounds from all cultures—including Afro-American and British.

By refusing to criticise Flanna Fail and its version of official Irish culture, and by suggesting that Irish rock is part of the same tradition, Waters is in reality selling the official version of Irish culture which he professes to hate.

If you have a story from your workplace phone (01) 872 2682

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Corpo strike forces climbdown

WHEN forty three General Operatives from Dublin Corporation's Home Maintenance Department were threatened, without any consultation, with transfer to other areas of work they went on strike with two hundred and twenty of their colleagues.

They were told that there was no work for them.

Thousands of tenants throughout the city would disagree with this.

According to Christy Cullen, a SIPTU official there was, "Loads of work but no workers."

They were told too that pay and conditions would not be affected.

This was clearly not the case.

Sewers

Men who had up until then worked in flat complexes could find themselves stuck in the city's parks or sewers.

The move would also have reduced the ratio of General Operatives to one for every two tradesmen.

Along with this, the Corporation had planned to employ thirty thousand FAS trainees on a part-time basis.

After two weeks on strike a mass meeting of General Operatives was called.

The workers voted 2 to 1 in favour of a strike.

A week's strike notice was issued.

Isolate

It would have brought three thousand men out and affected every department in the Corporation.

The next day, faced with a city-wide strike the management backed down at a hearing in the Labour Court.

As Charlie, a Corporation worker, put it:

"The management felt they could isolate the General Operatives but workers in other departments saw it as a lead up to an attack on them and struck in solidarity.

"The Corporation made a serious miscalculation and were forced to back down completely."

Blooms workers win

ON NOVEMBER 3rd the management of Blooms hotel in Temple Bar were forced to back down after a strike that had lasted five weeks.

The workers had been refused a 3 per cent pay rise promised them in the PESP three years ago.

They had attempted to negotiate with management but were treated with total contempt.

The General Manager at one point told them: "You're not worth the wages we pay you."

Take your staff and go on strike." Unfortunately for Blooms, that's exactly what they did.

And they put together one of the most effective strikes Dublin city has seen in recent years.

A roster was worked out and the pickets operated on a shift system.

A disciplinary committee was set

up to ensure the shifts ran smoothly.

Leaflets were distributed to the public explaining the reasons for the strike and listing alternative hotels they could patronise.

By the end of the fifth week only one company, Talons fruit and veg was still making deliveries, the hotel was reckoned to be losing between £8,000 and £10,000 a week and was receiving a lot of adverse publicity.

Club M and the Angelsea Bar, which are part of the hotel, were picketed too.

Management responded by offering free admission to the club at weekends and cheap drinks in the bar.

This was countered by the work-



ers talking to night-clubbers and offering concession tickets for other clubs.

Barriers

Most of the public turned away and the number of patrons fell drastically week by week.

While on picket duty strikers were subjected to a lot of intimidation.

Scabs working as porters in the hotel emptied ash

trays on them from the upper windows and one of them pulled a screw driver on a woman striker.

Other scabs were spotted carrying batons and bars.

Barriers were thrown up around the hotel to make it difficult for the strikers to park their cars.

Bob Geldof, the knight from Blackrock, passed the picket and advised the strikers to forget their pay rise and go back to work.

The same Bob Geldof gave out hell about a refuse strike in England a few years back.

Tony Fenton, that hip 2FM disc-jockey, passed it as well.

The resolve of the strikers remained strong though. Pierce, a shop steward talked about the im-

portance of their fight.

He realised that if they refused to fight or lost the strike it would have serious consequences for other workers in the catering industry.

Their wages too would be hit and agreements they had made would be dishonoured.

"We're not prepared to let that happen," he said. "We're saying 'no'."

This strike was no easier than most to win but it was very well organised, it had strong support (for a change) from the union, SIPTU, support from the public and active support from socialist parties in the city.

With that kind of organisation it was only a matter of time before the management weighed up the costs of its continuing and caved in.

STUDENTS HOLD HUGE PROTEST MARCH

ANGRY, determined and political.

That was the mood of the November 17th student demonstration against overcrowding and student poverty.

The 10,000 strong demonstration organised by the Union of Students in Ireland was a huge success.

Students face terrible conditions in many colleges at the moment.

Tadhg, a Trinity student, told about the overcrowding in the college.

The government says that there is supposed to be one library seat for every four students.

"But here there are nine students for every seat". Other students were concerned about poverty. Donal a UCD student said:

"They have cut the student dose."

The student grant is falling in real terms all the time.

Working class students have having to work while they are studying and this affects their education".

Initially the student union tried to build the demonstration by pretending it was a party.

One student said: "They got Heiniken to sponsor the demonstration."

They really thought that

NO POLITICAL CENSORSHIP!

USI STEWARDS on November 17 tried to impose a political censorship on the March. Socialist Worker placards were torn out of students hands.

A group of Socialist Worker Student Society members from Trinity College were physically assaulted by USI stewards.

Student Unions in the DIT colleges in Dublin actually ban political societies—although many of their own officers are Fianna Fail supporters. Waterford RTC has shown how to break these political bans.

Students who support Socialist Worker produced leaflets and petitions demanding the right to political discussions. Eventually the governing body had to back down and grant all political organisations the right to hold meetings.

students were so apathetic that you had to line up pints in front of them before they came out!" But ordinary students showed that they were far more political.

The biggest applause came when speakers denounced the rotten corrupt system that exists in Ireland.

Tragically, USI had no strategy for taking the magnificent demonstration forward.

They stopped the march going to the Dail. They did not call for any action—such as occupations—in the colleges afterwards.

TEAM VICTIMISATION

TEAM management have embarked on a victimisation policy at the airport.

Leading shop stewards such as Dennis Smyth have still not been taken back to work.

TEAM management have now revealed their true intentions.

They have offered a full return of all workers on in mid December—provided the workers agree to a 3 year no strike deal.

But as one worker put it, "It shows that they have been lying about there being no work available."

They want to use the lay-off to try to break the morale of the union. They will not succeed."

SIPTU officials pay

Premier Dairies

PREMIER Dairies are the latest company who are attacking their workers.

They want 90 redundancies and a wage freeze.

They want to contract out security staff and pay them less wages.

They want to transfer most of the work to

Rathfarnham. Full canteen facilities are to be withdrawn at Finglas and there is to be a reduction of meal allowances.

SIPTU is the majority union at Premier.

They should reject this plan immediately and starting mobilising their members to take action.

An Post

Postal workers in Dublin have voted 3 to 1 against proposals to move to a 6 am starting time. The present start time is 7 am.

The magnificent vote defied the recommendation of union leaders.

John Hynes and the management of An Post have made a complete mess of the re-organisation of the company and are being swamped by complaints of late deliveries.

Their solution was to offer postal workers a lump sum for the early rise.

They also got David Begg, the leader of the CWU, to push the new deal.

Begg sent a letter to all staff warning them that 'jobs would be at risk if they did not accept' the deal. The last line of his letter

SIPTU union officials came in for a roasting at the number of the regional conferences this year on the issue of their salaries.

SIPTU's general secretary Billy Atley has never revealed his full salary package but it is believed to lay in the region of £80,000 a year.

At the SIPTU public sector regional conference Atley was queried on his salary several times.

He was finally forced to agree to reveal full details at the next SIPTU national conference.

SIPTU Team workers also complained bitterly at the union's inaction on victimisation at the airport.

Some of the leading SIPTU stewards are still on lay off weeks after the return to work date.

urged them to think of their families when voting.

But fortunately rank and file officers were having none of it.

The Dublin District Offices Branch recommended rejection.

They sent out newsletters to their members because Begg refused to allow their rival letter accompany the ballot alongside his own.

STUDENTACTION

■ STUDENTS at the DIT college in Aungier St recently showed how to get proper facilities.

After waiting for six weeks for equipment, Communication students at the college decided to take some militant action.

They went out on a Friday and blocked the main street outside the college.

The following Monday the equipment had arrived.

■ THE Socialist Workers Student Society in UCD organised a lively picket at the opening of the O'Reilly centre in the college.

lege.

The centre will only be used for business conferences and conferring ceremonies. UCD has to pay for the upkeep of the centre and had to put up £1 million.

All for the ego of one man: Tony O'Reilly.

■ ALBERT Reynolds got a warm reception when he turned up to DCU.

300 students turned out to picket him with chants of 'Education for the masses not just the middle classes'.

The picket was called by SWSS and sponsored by the Students Union.

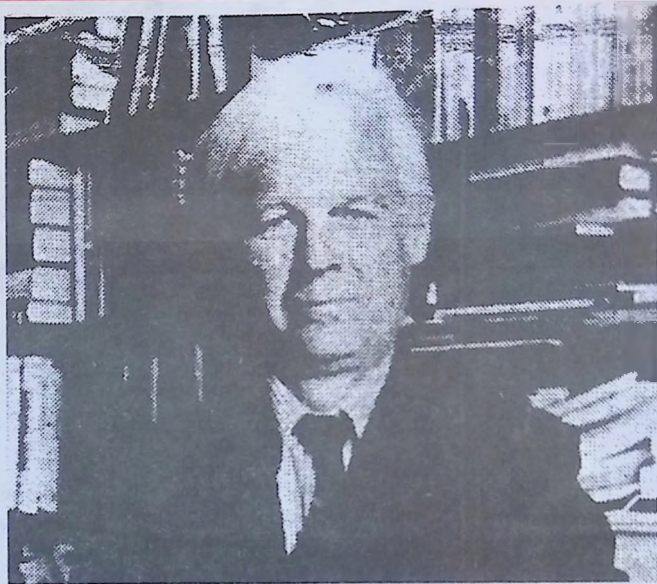
Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

PROTEST DAY OF ACTION

Against Lynn
Wednesday December 7th
Buses from Belfast and Dublin
Telephone (01) 872 2682

SACK THIS PROFESSOR OF HATE



Five reasons for getting Lynn sacked

1 Lynn has received \$325,000- from the Pioneer Fund.

The Pioneer Fund was set up in the thirties to provide Nazi ideas on eugenics.

This money went to a non-existent body called "The Ulster Institute for Social Research".

Its only member is Richard Lynn and has its address at 276 Drumcroon Road Coleraine BT51 3QT -- Lynn's home address.

2 Lynn is an honorary associate editor of the Pioneer Fund's magazine *Mankind Quarterly*.

Former editors have included Baron von Verschuler, director of genetics at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Nazi Germany.

Verschuler got his student Megele the job of camp doctor at Auschwitz.

3 He thinks the Irish are less intelligent than the English

4 His job at the University of Ulster in Coleraine as Professor of Psychology makes his nonsense seem respectable.

5 Students doing psychology are forced to listen to him lecture his bigotry or they fail their degrees.

COLERAINE racist, Professor Richard Lynn is in the news again for producing theories aimed at feeding race hatred.

Lynn was exposed last year by the Anti Nazi League. It was discovered that he received funding from the American far right Pioneer Fund to produce bogus theories claiming blacks are less intelligent than whites.

In a recent article published in the *Irish Independent* entitled "Is man breeding back to the Apes?" Lynn claimed that whites have higher IQs than blacks, that men are cleverer than women, and that Irish have lower IQs because generations of emigration have depleted the country's gene pool.

Lynn claims that single moth-

ers and the long term unemployed represent a major social problem. He claims "with an average IQ of 77, the chronic unemployed are not much above the level of mental retardation and many of them are below this level."

He also says that equal opportunity legislation should be scrapped. This is because women are genetically of lower intelligence and no legislation can hide that "reality".

Peddles

This man has to be exposed for the racist and sexist lies he peddles, despite the claims of his research that there are links between skin colour or sex and intelligence.

If people are unemployed it is

because a tiny minority in our society with all the wealth decide whether there are jobs or not.

If women are in low paid jobs it is because we live in a discriminatory society.

Lynn attempts to give a cloak of respectability to the thugs of the far right.

When the ANL marched in Coleraine against Lynn they were attacked by the National Front—showing clearly where his support lies.

The campaign to have Lynn sacked is gathering pace.

There was a picket in Dublin on the *Irish Independent's* printing of Lynn's filth.

And Queens students have called for his sacking and provided transport for an ANL demonstration in Coleraine.

THE NAZI FUNDING FOR LYNN

LYNN has received 325,000 dollars from the Pioneer Fund over the last number of years.

The Pioneer Fund only gives grants to racists and fascists.

Its aim is the promotion of hatred and discrimination against minorities.

■ The current treasurer John B Trevor said that South Africa's system of apartheid was a "well reasoned racial policy".

■ A previous director Roger Pearson reportedly played a role in hiding the Nazi criminal, Josef Mengele.

■ The first director of the Fund, Harry Laughlin received an award from a university in Nazi Germany for his work on "selective breeding".

■ Another director Henry Garrett appeared in US courts to demand that whites and blacks be segregated at schools.

Throughout the US protests have been mounted against those who have received money from the Pioneer Fund.